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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE

WORKING GROUP

Amended

Minutes of the Ninth Meeting
1030 Hours, 30 October 1974
White House Situation Room

Chairman, Presiding: LGEN Samuel V. Wilson, D/DCI/IC

Members present : Mr. Leslie H. Brown, Dept. of State
(representing Mr. George S. Vest,
Director, Bureau of Politico-Military
Affairs)
Mr. Robert F. Ellsworth, Assistant
Secretary of Defense (International
Security Affairs)
Mr. William N. Morell, Special
Assistant to the Secretary on National
Security, Department of the Treasury
RADM Robert P. Hilton (representing
LGEN John H. Elder, J-5 [Plans and
Policy], JCS)
Mr. Richard Ober, NSC Staff, Executive
Secretary of the NSCIC

Others Present : VADM Earl F. Rectanus, with Mr. Ellsworth
Capt. Gerald W. Dyer, with RADM Hilton
25X1A9a [REDACTED] Executive Secretary

Since this was the first session of the reconstituted Working Group; and the membership was entirely new, General Wilson outlined the program of the earlier Working Group and expressed the hope that the user/consumer membership of the new group would result in focus on user-oriented agenda items directly relating to the NSCIC mission of providing guidance on substantive intelligence matters and on evaluation of intelligence products from the standpoint of the intelligence consumer. Exceptions should be based on specific charges from the NSCIC.

The Chairman reported he already had formed an Intelligence Panel to provide intelligence inputs to the Working Group. The role of the Panel will evolve along with the role of the Working Group itself.

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General Wilson listed members of the Intelligence Panel as himself, Chairman; Dr. Edward Proctor, DDI/CIA; Mr. William McAfee, INR/State; Lieutenant General Eugene F. Tighe Jr., Deputy Director/DIA; [REDACTED] Deputy Director for Operations, NSA/CSS, and Mr. George Carver, D/DCI for National Intelligence Officers. Mr. Morrell asked why Treasury was not represented on the Panel. General Wilson said he had attempted to keep the Panel small, but was willing to address the addition of Treasury. Mr. Morell said he considered it important to include Treasury.

The Group agreed to postpone consideration of new Terms of Reference but noted the Terms of Reference adopted in June 1972 were now outdated.

Mr. Morell asked how the Requirements Advisory Board (RAB) would relate to the Working Group. General Wilson said the reconstituted RAB, with a Treasury representative as Chairman, would be a separate subordinate body to the NSCIC. He emphasized the need for insuring a good interface between the Working Group and the RAB.

The Chairman noted that the proposed NSCID No. 9 had been referred to the Working Group for recommendation to the NSCIC in Dr. Kissinger's memorandum of 10 October, "Action Program for the Working Group," but that since then the problem had escalated and was to be discussed shortly with the NSC by the Department of Justice and the DCI.

Agenda Item 1: Perspectives for Intelligence, 1975-1980

General Wilson said that a combination of the Perspectives, the Key Intelligence Questions and the DCI's "Objectives for the Intelligence Community" was the closest the Community has yet come to a "national intelligence strategy."

Discussion indicated no policy issues had been identified in the current document by any member. In response to questions and comments from Mr. Ellsworth, Mr. Ober, Mr. Morell, and Mr. Brown, the Chairman indicated that the "Perspectives" is intended to be reissued annually, that consumers of intelligence should be involved in development of the document, and that he hoped the Group could provide inputs for the next issuance. He stressed, however, the "Perspectives" in final form would continue to be the DCI's own document and not a fully coordinated paper.

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Mr. Morell stressed the need for coverage of economic intelligence matters in the "Perspectives." He said Treasury is having problems getting prompt economic reporting from overseas, and cited delays in reporting on OPEC meetings as an example. For important international meetings, he saw a need for more time-responsive reporting than is now usual. He noted that the close relationship between intelligence and negotiators in defense policy negotiations is not matched in the economic intelligence field -- there intelligence response is handicapped by lack of access to briefing books and background papers and gets very little feedback. Mr. Brown agreed and cited the US/Scandinavian countries F-104 discussions as a case in which intelligence could have been useful but was not involved.

Admiral Hilton thought the "Perspectives" should be referred to consumers for comment before issuance, and General Wilson indicated the Working Group would be the forum for this. Mr. Ober suggested the Intelligence Panel of the Working Group could be used in development of the paper. General Wilson invited any member with additional comments to send them to him by memorandum.

Agenda Item 2: Key Intelligence Questions for FY 1975

The Chairman described the Key Intelligence Questions list and reported on the written comments received from Mr. Ellsworth and Admiral Hilton. He suggested the Group focus on five questions. Do the KIQs include all the problems of greatest current importance? Are they sufficiently specific? Should any be added? Any deleted? What guidelines could be provided for the FY 1976 KIQs?

No addition or deletion of specific KIQs was proposed by any member. Mr. Ellsworth felt the KIQs needed to be more specific, and that there should be more KIQs, to which Mr. Morell and the Chairman responded with a brief description of the KIQ program as a management tool, noting that there is a second phase in the preparation of the KIQs which includes more specifics regarding priority requirements. Mr. Brown felt that confusion might arise because some KIQs seemed to focus on collection and others on analysis. Mr. Morell noted the KIQ program handled both aspects. The Chairman emphasized that ideally a KIQ should apply to both collection and analysis since the real focus of the KIQ was on what the consumer needs to know.

Mr. Ober suggested that the Working Group should discuss whether consumers rather than intelligence specialists should not draft the KIQs and the Chairman indicated he hoped a significant input could be made by the Working Group.

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Mr. Morell noted there are important problems to which a once-a-year list of KIQs is not applicable, and he cited Treasury efforts to alert the CIA to upcoming events on a two-month calendar.

The Chairman said that the KIQs represent only part of the answer to the broader problem of developing a smoothly functioning national intelligence requirements process. He indicated that additional discussion on elements to be considered in development of the KIQ list for FY-1976 would be scheduled for a future meeting.

Agenda Item 3: Pending Legislation

The Chairman said no Group action would be required on this item. He described the legislative proposal to enhance the protection of intelligence sources and methods which the DCI has submitted to OMB. The proposal has not yet been cleared for submission to the Congress.

Mr. Ober thought it would be worth while to get a briefing on other legislation which might affect the Intelligence Community.

Agenda Item 4: Proposed "Omnibus" NSCID

The Chairman noted that the DCI was preparing an Omnibus NSCID at the Secret level to replace all eight of the existing NSCIDs. The initial draft of this document was submitted to the NSCIC in August and the NSCIC had approved the concept. The DCI was reviewing the final draft developed by a group of Community representatives prior to submitting it to the USIB. Upon completion of USIB action, it is presently planned that the Omnibus NSCID be provided to the Working Group for preparation of an action recommendation to the NSCIC.

Agenda Item 5: National/Tactical Intelligence Interface

General Wilson presented an informational report on status of the Secretary of Defense/DCI examination of the interface -- and particularly the potentialities for improved mutual support -- between national and tactical intelligence activities. He noted that Admiral 25X149a 25X149a was Co-Chairman of this effort, along with [REDACTED] of the Intelligence Community Staff. General Wilson said that the Working Group might be called upon to review the completed study and prepare recommendations for the NSCIC, but this cannot be determined until the initial phase of the study is completed sometime in early 1975. Admiral Hilton indicated the second phase probably would involve a more extensive examination of detailed theater requirements.

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Mr. Ober reported that a NSC panel, using outside consultants, has been working for several months on a related subject -- the use of national reconnaissance assets for tactical purposes.

Agenda Item 6: "The fact of" Satellite Photographic Reconnaissance

This item involved consideration of the DCI memorandum to Dr. Kissinger of 21 August 1974, Modification of Security Classification," in which the DCI proposed "the fact of" satellite photographic reconnaissance, now classified Secret, be declassified. Group members were provided a copy of the Secretary of Defense letter of 22 August to the DCI, which opposed such declassification. General Wilson reported on the discussion on this topic held at the USIB meeting of 11 July 1974.

General Wilson said that in his view the Soviet leadership could well feel that declassification of "the fact of" by the US would pose problems for them. Mr. Ellsworth strongly opposed declassification for a number of reasons -- he saw little to be gained and quite a bit to lose, he considered that declassification would lead to further erosion of details, and the action would open up questions of national sovereignty. Mr. Brown said the State Department position was clearly opposed to declassification. Admiral Hilton supported the Secretary of Defense position.

The Working Group agreed to recommend to the NSCIC that it approve retention of the present Secret classification on "the fact of" satellite photographic reconnaissance.

Agenda Item 7: Work Program for the Working Group

General Wilson proposed that before deciding on any work program the Group first examine what the members considered was wrong with the intelligence their organizations are provided. He felt a "thoughtful intelligence critique" was needed, and from that identification of the primary areas which needed improvement the Group could move on to consider what ought to be done. He said he had considered whether it would be best to have such a critique at this meeting or merely pose the problem and get responses at the next meeting. General Wilson indicated he favored the latter course -- and the group agreed.

The Chairman said that with the minutes of the meeting he would forward a set of questions which might stimulate thinking on the problem.

Since the NSCIC might meet in December, he hoped to schedule a Working Group session in late November. He invited agenda proposals.


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Mr. Ober suggested that the only item he saw which might be tied to other schedules would be a report on resources, particularly if there was to be any termination of programs which would have an impact on support to consumers. The Chairman doubted whether, in view of budget review schedules, any meaningful report on resources could be made for a November meeting.

General Wilson said he would endeavor to flag for Working Group members resource matters which could seriously affect the responsiveness of intelligence to user needs.

He said he felt the Working Group could be the "engine that makes the NSCIC work" and could make a dynamic input to solution of long standing problems. Mr. Ober said that feeling was shared in the NSC Staff. Mr. Ellsworth agreed. Admiral Hilton said it would be valuable if the Group could have a full listing of ongoing activities relating to the interests of the Group. The Chairman said a report on warning and crisis management activities would be scheduled for an early meeting. Mr. Morell said the Group should consider its relationships with the reactivated Requirements Advisory Group.

The session adjourned 25X11A900 hours.


NSCIC Working Group
Executive Secretary